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Special theme: "Principles of good governance consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: articles 3 to 6 and 46"

Human rights: implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Ongoing priorities and themes and follow-up

Information from States on addressing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Note by the secretariat

The present document is a compilation of the responses from Member States to a questionnaire on actions taken to implement the goal of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples and the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The questionnaire and the complete responses from Member States are available on the website of the Permanent Forum.

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I. Introduction

1. As at 28 February 2014, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues had received written responses to its questionnaire on actions taken or planned to address and implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum from the following States: Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Denmark and Greenland,[1] Finland, Mexico, New Zealand and Norway. New Zealand reported for the first time in 2014. The complete written responses from States can be found on the website of the Permanent Forum (http://undesadspd.org/IndigenousPeoples/UNPFIISessions/Thirteenth.aspx).

2. The questionnaire sent to States was divided into two sections. The first part was designed to obtain information on the achievements of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, including the related issue of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as other information on how Governments are currently promoting the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The second part of the questionnaire was designed to obtain information for the thirteenth session of the Permanent Forum, as well as its ongoing themes and priorities.

3. On 20 December 2004, the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/174, in which it established the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, which commenced on 1 January 2005. The goal of the Second Decade, with the theme "Partnership for action and dignity", is the further strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development, by means of action-oriented programmes and specific projects, increased technical assistance and relevant standard-setting activities.

4. All United Nations Member States have agreed to achieve eight Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted in September 2000, commits world leaders to combating poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development.

5. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the most comprehensive and advanced international instrument incorporating indigenous people's rights. The Declaration was adopted by the General Assembly in 2007. Article 42 of the Declaration has established that the United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of the Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of the Declaration.

[1] Greenland has an autonomous government within the Government of Denmark; Denmark submitted its report as Denmark and Greenland.

II. Section 1 of the questionnaire: achievement of the goal of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and related issues

A. State responses concerning compliance with the goal of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

6. Australia reported the Government's focus on ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children attend school regularly. The starting point is the Government's Remote School Attendance Strategy. The Commonwealth Government is working closely with the relevant state, territory and non-government education providers to address a range of barriers contributing to non-attendance and to ensure that indigenous students in remote areas get to school and stay at school. The Government of Australia will also include a national target to improve attendance rates in its strategic targets aimed at closing the gap between the outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the outcomes of other Australians.

7. The Government of Australia works collaboratively with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector to improve the health outcomes of all indigenous Australians. There is a focus on preventive health activities and significant investment in primary health-care services. Australia is committed to closing the gap in indigenous health outcomes and has targeted closing the gap in terms of life expectancy by 2031 and halving the rates of child mortality by 2018.

8. The Ministry of Education of the Plurinational State of Bolivia has been working towards the development of an educational curriculum which complies with indigenous peoples' rights. The curriculum is of high quality, taking into consideration indigenous peoples' culture and language. The Plurinational State of Bolivia has published documents and multimedia materials for educational purposes in Aymara, Quechua and Guarani. In terms of health, it reported the establishment of intercultural municipal pharmacies, which provide medicines based on medicinal plants. On 19 December 2013, the Government adopted the Ancestral Bolivian Traditional Medicine Law, which aims to regulate the exercise and practice of the national health system on ancestral traditional medicine.

9. Denmark has adopted a strategy for the period 2013-2016 aimed at socially disadvantaged persons from Greenland living in Denmark to improve their living conditions. A total of DKr 13.4 million has been allocated for the implementation of the strategy. In January 2013 the Greenland Human Rights Council was established on the basis of *Inatsisartut* Act No. 23 of 3 December 2012. The Council cooperates with the Danish Institute for Human Rights in monitoring the human rights situation in Greenland.

10. In 2013, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland commissioned a study on the health and well-being of Saami living in the Saami homeland. A central factor in the well-being of Saami is coping with life. This is based on independent living, assistance from relatives and the community, and support and services from society. The Saami population lives in the midst of pressure to change: as the population ages, young Saami move to live elsewhere. Hence, their ways of life and livelihoods change and there is concern that Saami communities may disintegrate. A positive finding of the study is that both the Saami identity and the Saami language and culture have been strengthened. Owing to changes in the Saami community,

public services provided in the Saami language have an important role in ensuring the well-being of Saami peoples. However, there is a short history of public services being made available to Saami; their access to services has improved, albeit slowly. According to the Saami women, the nuclear family clearly has a stronger role as an everyday source of assistance. In recent decades, there has been a significant rise in supplementing welfare services and everyday safety networks for Saami.

11. The Mexican National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples organized a consultation on the priorities for the development of indigenous peoples and people of African descent. The result of this consultation was taken into consideration in the development of the national development plan for the period 2013-2018. The consultation covered 27 local states, covering 297 municipalities. Overall, 23,010 indigenous peoples (12,469 men and 10,541 women) participated in the consultation.

12. In New Zealand there are seven Maori electorates in Parliament. The Government of New Zealand has established a Minister of Maori Affairs. The Waikato Regional Council has established two Maori seats for the 2013 elections. *Te Puni Kōkiri* is a government ministry established under the Ministry of Maori Development Act 1991. The Ministry provides policy advice to the Minister of Maori Affairs. Its functions are to promote increases in levels of achievement by Maori in education, training and employment, health and economic resource development and to monitor and liaise with other government departments and agencies to ensure that their services for Maori are adequate.

B. Efforts of Governments regarding indigenous peoples and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

13. Australia reported that there were no formal policy links between Australian indigenous policy and the Millennium Development Goals, as the Goals currently relate solely to developing countries.

14. Finland supports the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership, which was launched in 2011 by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund with the support of the Secretary-General. The Partnership provides funding, expert and technical support to joint United Nations country programmes, as well as global and regional initiatives designed in partnership with indigenous peoples to advance the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, ILO Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, and recommendations by treaty bodies and other human rights mechanisms.

15. Finland supports the participation of indigenous peoples in various United Nations forums, including through voluntary funding to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations. In preparation for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, Finland has channelled additional support to the activities of the Indigenous Global Coordinating Group in order to contribute to the inclusive and broad participation of indigenous peoples, including indigenous youth and women.

16. In Mexico all the programmes carried out by the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples support the Millennium Development Goals. In 2006 the Commission prepared a document entitled "The MDGs and indigenous peoples in Mexico", which is part of a larger document entitled "The MDGs in Mexico".

17. New Zealand reported on the Maori Potential Approach, a public policy framework developed by *Te Puni Kōkiri* in 2004. The approach recognizes that Maori are culturally distinct and have the capacity and potential to improve the quality of life for themselves and their community.

C. Indigenous children and youth

18. Australia reported that youth diversionary programmes for indigenous children were funded to help them avoid incarceration and to assist in tackling the incidence of petrol sniffing in remote indigenous communities, particularly in central and northern Australia. The Government is funding the roll-out of low-aromatic, non-sniffable fuel across the region and youth diversionary programmes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth, which are integral to the success of the strategy.

19. The Government of Australia directly funds nearly 350 children's services to deliver mainstream childcare (in regional and remote areas) and culturally competent services, in particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-focused childcare services (across all geographical areas, from metropolitan to remote). The participation of indigenous children in preschools is supported.

20. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Ministry of Education provides 350 scholarships for low-income indigenous youth. In 2013 the Indigenous Technological Centre was created; 120 indigenous young people are now studying at the Centre.

21. According to Denmark, indigenous peoples, children and youth are in general focus areas in its development cooperation, as well as in its human rights policies.

22. In Finland, the Ministry of Education and Culture has taken long-term measures to support the activities of young Saami peoples as part of the overall youth policy. The Youth Council set up in 2010 in connection with the Saami Parliament aims to improve the living conditions of young Saami and to promote their active citizenship. The Ministry subsidizes the activities of the Youth Council financially on a yearly basis. In addition, the Ministry subsidizes the national Saami youth organization and has granted special subsidies for the youth activities of the Saami in the Helsinki metropolitan area.

23. Mexico has created a programme to host indigenous children and youth who require the service, providing housing, food and education. As at 31 December 2013, 60,692 persons benefited from the programme through 1,065 hostels. Some 236 community-based hostels have also been established, benefiting 13,996 indigenous children and youth. The Government spent 902.4 million Mexican pesos to support the hostels.

24. Child poverty exists in New Zealand, and the Government is taking steps to address this issue. Based on the latest available comparisons, New Zealand's child poverty rates are in the middle of international league tables published by the

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the European Union. Poverty in New Zealand is generally understood as "exclusion from a minimum acceptable way of life in one's own society because of a lack of adequate resources", and children in New Zealand have access to free education, health care and, where necessary, welfare for their parents.

25. The Government of New Zealand is firmly focused on children's engagement and success in education. There is a deliberative policy drive to increase participation in early childhood education, particularly for children considered vulnerable. The Government is also looking at those parts of the education system where children tend to disengage. The overall emphasis is on increasing achievement and success.

26. New Zealand children aged between 5 and 19 years have a right to free education. The Government recognizes that some children face particular challenges in accessing education, particularly Maori and Pasifika children and children with disabilities. The Government has developed specific plans and programmes to tackle these issues, including the Pasifika Education Plan and the Maori Education Strategy. The Government also has a target for all schools to demonstrate inclusive practice by 2014.

27. The Government of Norway supports language projects and teaching materials for kindergartens and schools. For Saami youth that live in areas where few speak Saami, there are distance education programmes and regularly organized language camps. The Action Plan for Saami Languages (2009-2014) gives an overview of the measures concerning Saami languages.

28. Children and youth organizations receive funding from the Saami Parliament and/or the Government in order to strengthen relationships with Saami youth in the other Nordic countries and, in general, to work with issues that engage young Saami people.

D. Focus, laws and programmes to address indigenous women's issues

29. The indigenous women's grant programme of the Government of Australia enhances the leadership skills of indigenous women in a range of areas that contribute to improving outcomes for overcoming indigenous disadvantages, in line with identified local needs and priorities. The Government provides funding to community legal centres to meet the specific legal needs of indigenous women and funds programmes that assist indigenous women who are victims/survivors of family violence.

30. According to the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the right of indigenous women to access and own land has increased. Prior to the current Government, only 11 per cent of indigenous women owned land. Under the current Government, indigenous women's ownership has increased to 46 per cent.

31. Denmark and Greenland reported that, in April 2003, the Government of Greenland adopted the Act for equality between women and men. Since the 1980s there have been shelters and counselling centres for women or men in Greenland who have been victims of violence and threats of violence or other domestic crisis. Women and men may be accompanied by their children. In the second half of 2013,

the *Inatsisartut* (Greenland Parliament) adopted a strategy and action plan for the period 2014-2017 to combat violence in the domestic as well as in the public sphere.

32. Mexico adopted the new national programme of the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples in January 2014. One of the specific objectives of the programme is to promote the exercise of the rights of indigenous women in order to tackle inequality between men and women through cross-cutting actions. The programme includes the establishment of houses for indigenous women, a project to provide attention and protection to indigenous women victims of violence, the promotion of gender equality among indigenous peoples, as well as strengthening the leadership of indigenous women.

33. New Zealand reported the establishment of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, which is the Government's principal adviser on achieving better outcomes for women. *Whānau Ora* is an initiative implemented by *Te Puni Kōkiri*, the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Health. It recognizes the role of Maori women in families and is implemented by more than 200 health, social and community providers.

E. National institutions for indigenous peoples' issues

34. According to the Government of Australia indigenous issues are accorded a high priority, with the Australian Prime Minister being the Minister for Indigenous Australians. The Government's focus is on improving education, providing more job opportunities, empowering individuals and communities and improving standards of living. Most indigenous policies, programmes and services delivery have been moved into the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the Minister for Indigenous Affairs sits within the Cabinet. In addition, a Parliamentary Secretary assists with delivering programme outcomes for indigenous Australians. As the lead agency the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet ensures that greater priority is given to indigenous affairs in terms of access to mainstream programmes across all agencies.

35. One of the institutions working on indigenous peoples' issues in the Plurinational State of Bolivia is the Ministry of Autonomy, which aims to gradually promote self-determination and self-government for indigenous peoples.

36. According to Denmark a number of national and regional institutions are engaged in the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples. These include in particular the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the Danish Institute for Human Rights, the Arctic Council and the Greenland Council for Human Rights. Greenland also has its own courts, and the Danish High Court is the highest court of appeal for Greenland.

37. The Danish Institute for Human Rights prepared a report regarding human rights in Greenland focusing primarily on children, disabled persons, the rule of law, education and extractive industries. The Institute has also trained defence lawyers in Greenland and initiated cooperation with a child right's institution in Greenland to strengthen the dissemination of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

38. In Finland the Ministry of Justice is tasked with the coordination and preparation of matters concerning the Saami peoples. Other ministries take responsibility for managing Saami issues in their own field of administration,

including on issues related to social welfare and health, employment and livelihoods.

39. In Finland, the task of the Ombudsman for Minorities is to advance the status and legal protection of ethnic minorities in Finland and to prevent and tackle ethnic discrimination. The Ombudsman also acts as the national rapporteur on trafficking in human beings. The Office of the Ombudsman targets its services towards immigrants, foreigners living in Finland and Finland's traditional ethnic minorities, such as the Saami peoples.

40. In 2003, Mexico established the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples. The objective of the Commission is to coordinate, promote, support, follow up and evaluate programmes, projects, strategies and public actions for the integral and sustainable development of indigenous peoples and communities.

41. In New Zealand the *Te Puni Kōkiri* is the government ministry that provides policy advice to the Minister of Maori Affairs. Its functions are to promote increases in levels of achievement by Maori in education, training and employment, health and economic resource development and to monitor and liaise with other government departments and agencies to ensure that their services are adequate.

F. Capacity-building programmes on indigenous peoples' issues for civil servants

42. Australia indicated that the Australian Public Service Commission supports the recruitment, development and career progression of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian public service by implementing the Australian Public Service Indigenous Employment Strategy. Federal government agencies have cultural awareness programmes to build public servants' capacity to understand indigenous issues and the importance of engagement.

43. According to Denmark, a technical guide on indigenous peoples' rights produced in 2011 is available for civil servants and others working with development activities in the Government of Denmark.

44. In Finland the Saami Education Institute makes an active contribution to developing education and training, such as quality work in vocational education, as a member of a quality network of northern Finland.

45. In 2013, the Mexican National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples and other institutions, such as the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas, organized workshops on human rights and the environment in 12 local states. The workshops included indigenous rights and the environment, as well as the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples.

46. The New Zealand Human Rights Commission's programme *Te Mana i Waitangi* delivers workshops to a range of community and government audiences on the Treaty of Waitangi and the Declaration of Independence.

G. Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

47. The Australian Human Rights Commission, which is funded by the Government of Australia, is active in promoting the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including through education materials.

48. Greenland and Denmark have for years worked together closely to promote indigenous peoples' rights. Denmark's first strategy in 2004 to support indigenous peoples was prepared on the basis of a Danish/Greenland initiative. The establishment of the self-government arrangement for Greenland in 2009 is in itself an illustration of Greenland and Denmark's implementation of and commitment to the Declaration. A report in 2011 concluded that the Danish/Greenland cooperation had led to groundbreaking institutional results and to improving living conditions for indigenous peoples.

49. Denmark and Greenland have historically been and are still active in a number of relevant forums where indigenous peoples' rights are discussed. For instance, Denmark and Greenland participated actively in the negotiation of resolutions relevant to the rights of indigenous peoples and in the sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

50. In Finland many of the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples have been included in national legislation at the time of its adoption in 2007. For a long time, protecting and promoting the rights of indigenous peoples had been one of the priorities of the Government of Finland in the field of human rights and a cross-cutting theme in Finnish development policy. The adoption of the Declaration brought a new significant instrument for international cooperation and, most importantly, for national work in partnership with the Saami peoples. In Finland, the Declaration has become a valuable tool in the preparation of a multitude of national measures, ranging from legislation to action plans.

51. Finland has pursued the objectives of the Declaration, for example by means of a national action plan on fundamental and human rights adopted in March 2012. Different projects under the action plan aim to promote the implementation of Saami peoples' participation rights. In practice, such projects clarify the legislation on the rights of the Saami to take part in the decision-making on and planning of the use of state land and waters in the Saami homeland.

52. In Mexico the Declaration has been translated into many indigenous languages and has been disseminated through appropriate intercultural mechanisms. It has also been used as a guide to develop policies on indigenous peoples, including consultation mechanisms.

53. The Government of New Zealand promotes the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through the New Zealand Human Rights Commission's programme *Te Mana i Waitangi*. As previously stated, the programme delivers workshops regarding the Treaty of Waitangi and the Declaration of Independence.

54. Norway reported that great importance had been attached to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the Saami people. Although many of the rights laid down in the Declaration have already been

implemented in Norway, for example through the Finnmark Act and the Procedures for Consultations between State Authorities and the Saami Parliament of 11 May 2005, the Declaration is an important signal of the State's general position regarding the rights of indigenous peoples.

55. In Norway, a number of political areas will be relevant and of considerable importance to the Saami. As regards such matters, the right to self-determination can be viewed as a right to influence and co-determination in matters that affect the Saami as a group. When such a right to participation and influence is to be implemented, two categories of rights may be considered. First, it concerns a right to make decisions alone in matters that apply only to the Saami, that is, cultural and linguistic autonomy. Second, it must concern a right to genuine, effective participation in the exercise of public administration affecting both the Saami and the community of which it is part, for example as regards decisions concerning land-use planning and the exploitation of resources. A right to participation, among others, may be implemented through consultations, and an obligation to consult the indigenous people concerned is also referred to in the Declaration.

56. In Norway, the consultation obligation is implemented through the Procedures for Consultations between State Authorities and the Saami Parliament in accordance with article 6 of ILO Convention No. 169. The right to participation in the management of natural resources can also be exercised through the appointment of a Saami parliamentarian to joint governing bodies, such as *Finnmarkseiendommen* ("the Finnmark Estate") and the regional predator management boards.

III. Section 2 of the questionnaire: recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and ongoing issues and priorities

A. Response to recommendations from the twelfth session of the Permanent Forum

57. According to Denmark, few recommendations stemming from the twelfth session of the Permanent Forum are directly applicable to the context of Denmark/Greenland. As recommended by the Permanent Forum, Denmark recently pledged approximately $450,000 (DKr 2.5 million) to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations and intends to pledge approximately $730,000 (DKr 4 million) to the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues.

58. In 2014 Denmark/Greenland will be the main sponsors of an expert workshop in April to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of ILO Convention No. 169. The workshop aims to take stock of the Convention's contribution to rights-based development as well as to revitalize interest in and strengthen the implementation of the Convention.

59. In Finland the recommendations of the Permanent Forum are used to provide general guidance for policymaking and drafting laws.

60. In 2013 Mexico provided financial support to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations. In 2014 Mexico will host a preparatory meeting

for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and will support indigenous peoples' participation during the World Conference.

B. Response on the special theme, "Principles of good governance consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: articles 3 to 6 and 46"

61. According to Australia the Commonwealth provides assistance to more than 2,500 indigenous corporations through the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations. The Registrar regulates and supports indigenous corporations incorporated under the Corporations (Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006. The Office delivers a tailored service that responds to the special need of indigenous groups and corporations and works to establish national and international best practice in corporate governance.

62. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, according to the policy implemented by the Government there are new processes ongoing towards the recognition of indigenous autonomy, including in the following territories and municipalities: Raqaypampa, Monte Verde Chiquitano Indigenous Territory, Marka Camata, Multiethnic Indigenous Territory (Beni) and Yuracare Indigenous Council.

63. Denmark's support for good governance is guided by two interlinked strategies: democracy and human rights for the benefit of the people and effective and accountable public sector management. In addition, the Strategy for Danish Support to Civil Society in Developing Countries also provides significant pointers for the Danish support to governance. A number of thematic synergies link these strategies in such areas as accountability, transparency and participation. A human rights-based approach to development is underpinning these strategies.

64. As part of Denmark's international human rights cooperation and in close cooperation with the Greenland autonomous government, Denmark promotes and protects the rights of indigenous peoples. The strategy for the Government's approach to international human rights work from 2009 identifies indigenous peoples' rights as an issue where Denmark will make a special effort in the years ahead.

65. Equality and non-discrimination are key building blocks for democracy, and respect for the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples is one of the strategic priorities outlined in the current strategy. Specific efforts to promote the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities are often implemented in cooperation with United Nations agencies.

66. Reference is also made to the information on the Greenland autonomous government and its introduction submitted to the Permanent Forum at its eighth session (E/C.19/2009/4/Add.4), as regards the approach to good governance in Greenland.

67. In Finland the Saami Parliament and the revised Saami Parliament Act request authorities to negotiate with the Saami Parliament in all far-reaching and important measures which may directly and specifically affect the status of the Saami as indigenous peoples and which concern matters in the Saami homeland.

68. In Mexico the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples is working with local governments in the harmonization of their legislation on indigenous peoples with international standards. Currently, 20 local Constitutions of the 31 local States have harmonized their legislation. Furthermore, 21 local States have adopted legislation on the rights and culture of indigenous peoples.

69. New Zealand reported that the Treaty of Waitangi was considered a founding document of New Zealand. The Treaty has a well-developed system for settling historical Treaty grievances with Maori, known as the Treaty settlement process. Through that process, the Government is pursuing efforts to comprehensively settle Treaty grievances that Maori claimant groups assert the State has committed. The Government seeks to negotiate settlements that are timely, fair and durable. Settlements may include land, money and a government apology. The New Zealand Parliament passes legislation supporting each Treaty settlement. In most cases, the legislation is approved by all parties in Parliament. The process in Parliament reaffirms both the importance that New Zealand places on redressing historical harms but also means that all of New Zealand has a stake in durable settlements. The State and claimant groups have signed 67 deeds of settlement in relation to Treaty of Waitangi claims. It is expected that approximately 60 more will be signed. The Government of New Zealand is aiming to reach agreements with all willing and able claimant groups in the next few years.

70. In Norway the authorities played an active part in the work in the lead-up to the adoption of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples when it first started in 1984. The Government's goal was to arrive at a United Nations declaration that could strengthen the protection afforded to the world's indigenous peoples. The Government cooperated closely with the Saami Parliament, which was represented at all times in the Norwegian delegation on the negotiations in the United Nations.

71. The national legal framework is in line with international obligations, and Norway's Saami policy is in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Saami Parliament was established in 1989 and is the representative political body for the Saami in Norway. It is an important dialogue partner for the central government and has assumed administrative responsibility and implements policy instruments in certain areas.

72. In the past few decades, policies towards the Saami have given priority in terms of recognizing and strengthening minority and indigenous rights and to developing an infrastructure of institutions in Saami society. Legislation and programmes to strengthen the Saami language, culture industries and society have been developed and implemented in dialogue and cooperation with the Saami Parliament.

IV. Observation

73. The reports by States provide important background information, as well as current information, on Government policies and practices in respect of indigenous peoples' rights. States have reported that basic social services are being directed to indigenous peoples and, more importantly, to all groups within indigenous communities, such as women, youth, children and persons with disabilities. The information provided by States on the implementation of the United Nations

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is encouraging, but more needs to be done to improve the situation of indigenous peoples on the ground. Appreciation goes to those States that provided reports in 2014, not only for the thirteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues but also to address the questions on the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. Those States that have not submitted reports are encouraged to do so in the future, as such reports are extremely valuable and important for the work of the Permanent Forum.